

A MODEST
APOLOGY

FOR

Parson *ALBERONI*,

GOVERNOR TO

King *PHILIP, a Minor*;

AND

Universal Curate

Of the whole

Spanish MONARCHY:

THE

Whole being a short, but unanswerable
Defence of *Priestcraft*, and a *New* Con-
futation of the Bishop of *Bangor*.

Nam & veste sub illa
Sape latent sevi truculentâ mente Tyranni,
Sape Latro, lurcoq; vorax, & fœdus Adulter,
Et simulatus Amor, fallaxq; Modestia vultus,
Quæ tegit in numeras sub ovillo vellere Fraudes.

Buchari.

The Eighth Edition.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *J. Roberts*, near the *Oxford Arms* in
Warwick-lane. 1719. (Price 6d.)



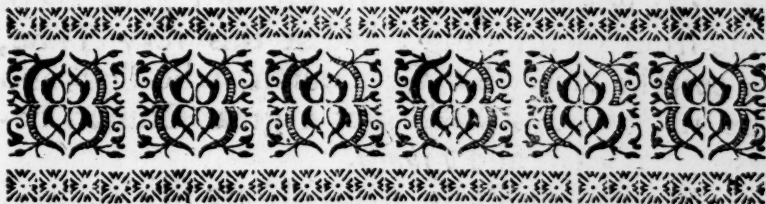
PREFACE.

AS the Characters and Descriptions in this little Treatise are intended for a Picture of one Set of Men only, who have distinguish'd themselves as much by their uncommon Practices and Positions, as I have done by this uncommon Apology, I may reasonably hope that none will rail at it, who are not hit by it. Therefore if any Gentlemen please to take it ill that I have publish'd their Pourtraitures, I am ready to thank them: Their Anger will be my Defence; and it will be sufficient, for the Justification of my Copy, that there are really such Originals. They have long sat for their Picture, and the Features are so strong and obvious, that it was scarce possible to miss them. If they appear frightful, now they are drawn, the Fault is not in me.

How amiable is the Character of a Clergyman, when it is not stain'd by the Wearer! And every good Man will honour that Minister who does not dishonour himself. That there are still many such, is my Pleasure, that there are not more, is my Concern.

I added an Explanation of this Kind by way of Postscript to the second Edition, and have prefix'd it as a Preface to the others. It may be necessary to the Wilful and the Weak.

The GuesSES which have been made about the Author, give me Occasion to declare to the World, that my Name never yet was in Print.



A MODEST
 APOLOGY
 FOR
 Parson *Alberoni*, &c.

IT is surprizing what sublime Consequences are produced by the humblest Instruments. One would think that Brass is a Metal void of Comeliness and Merit, either in Colour or Smell; and yet a suitable Portion of it, placed conveniently upon the *Forehead*, does frequently entitle the *Bearer* to the highest Stations in Church and State. It often makes a *bold Figure* at the Head of a Regiment, and often *commands* Attention at the Council-Table. In *Westminster-Hall* it is loud, and *therefore* successful; and, in Parliament popular and perswasive, *for the same Reason*. And then again, if you take it in another Capacity, it still carries all before it. *Thomas a Becket* was Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, as have been since se-

veral other good Doctors of *equal* Meekness and Merit, whom my fear of giving *Offence* keeps me from mentioning ; and at this very Time, a certain *Apostolical* Gentleman, who shall also be nameless, is *Cardinal* of a great Church betwixt *Newgate* and *Tyburn*.

O Catholick Brags, manifold are thy Virtues ! I admire thy Interest, tho' I never felt thy Friendship ; an obstinate Fellow, one *Modesty* by Name, never suffering me to take Acquaintance with thee. Thou fortunate Favourite of the Court and the Cassocks, many a fair Lady hast thou won, and many a fair Post enjoy'd ! Powerful also is thy Force in Argument : How invincibly hast thou supported the Divine Right of Kings and Clergy, their *unbroken* Succession, and *unlimited* Power, to the utter Confusion of *common* Sense, and the *Bishop of Bangor* !

But to proceed with the mighty Events that arise from *contemptible* Causes ; every Body has heard that the famous Sir *John Whittington*, at his first setting out in the World, had no greater Cargo than a homely *Tabby Cat*, and she too, like other mortal Merchandize, subject to *Tare* and *Tret*. But she proved a mighty Hunter, and, by her Teeth and Reputation, promoted her *Fellow Traveller* to the chief Post in the chief City. And thus, to draw a Moral from the Story, *The Destruction of Rats became the Generation of a Knight and a Lord Mayor*.

I have heard, in foreign Countries, of a fleshy headed *Chamber-Maid*, who from pinning her *Mistress's Rump*, got astride three Nations, and rode them almost out of Breath ; for she was *Corpulent*, and, for the most part, had a *Spur in her Head*.

Even the great *Virgil* became a Courtier by being a Farrier ; and a *Tapster* has been the Elements of an *Ambassador*.

Arts and Sciences themselves have had their Birth from trivial Chance. Musick, as sweet a Girl as she is, had a dirty Anvil for her Mother, and a base born Hammer for her Father, and was midwif'd into the World by a sooty Blacksmith. And Astrology derives its Genealogy from Cow-keeping, the *Chaldaean* Herdsmen having, while they look'd after their Flocks, *grown familiar with the Stars*. Thus *Venus* had her Water first watched by Rusticks, who, one would think, could have neither *sufficient Breeding, nor Capacity* for Pimping — but the *most elegant Arts* were rude in their Beginnings.

A *Friar*, whilst he was boiling up a Balsam for a broken Shin, stumbled upon the Generation of Gun-Powder, which was therefore conceived in the *Womb* of a Gally-pot, made *pregnant* by a *Priest*.

The great *Pope Sixtus* the Fifth ow'd his triple Crown to the keeping of Pigs, and from a mean Swine-Herd mounted till he came to be Chief of *another Herd*, still preserving an *Analogy between his first and last Employment*.

The great *Tompion* had never made Watches, had he not first made Hob-Nails.

All this *Waste* of Learning, which, in other Hands, might fill many Books, may serve to introduce the Manner and Motive by which I came to be an Author. Know then, *Curious Reader*, that a Stationer in the City having, last Week, *trusted me* with an *Inkborn* and the Appurtenances, I began immediately to make Use of it, and upon a tryal of my Genius, I found I could make as good a Figure in print as some
other

other famous Writers, whose Merit is *best* known to *themselves*.

My first Attempt was upon the Witty and Voluminous Mr. *Mist*, the Journalist, because I would begin with *something signal* at my first setting out. I found his Paper, after much search, in a blind Ale-House, near *Hockly in the Hole*. Having met my Rival for Fame, instantly I drew my Pen, and by several bold Strokes upon his Margin, discover'd plainly that *Sense and Modesty* were not his Seconds, for they both proved mine. But for all this dreadful Enmity between us, I will candidly own that the *Jews*, for whom he lately drew up an inimitable Petition, have almost as good a Title as himself to one sort of *Advancement in a Christian Commonwealth*. My Antagonist would certainly fill a particular tall Post, which is empty of *finer* than it should be, with becoming Merit and Justice. But see, how these Parsons run away with *Preferments* from the Laity! This very Post is, I am told, conferr'd, for the present, upon a genuine Son of the Church, who has conscientiously deserved it.

Behold, kind Reader, A true and full Account of the Origination of this admirable Pamphlet. If Heaven spare me my Life and my Inkhorn, it is likely I may swell into Volumes, as divers and sundry useful Writers have done for no better Reason.

Having thus succeeded beyond Expectation in my first Essay, I am embolden'd thereby to an Undertaking equal, if possible, to my last, and from the Defence of Mr. *Mist*, I intend to pass, perhaps naturally enough, to an Apology for the Reverend Parson Alberoni, who, by the high Station he enjoys, of Vice-Roy over the King of Spain,

Spain, is become the Mark of much unreasonable Envy. This Task of mine will lead me to open and justify the Grounds and commendable Aims of the *flourishing Trade of Priestcraft*, for which I promise my self the pious Thanks of the Convocation, *the next Time it fits.*

I hope I shall need no Excuse for the sharp Things which my Zeal for the Church and the Cardinal will tempt me to utter.

As to the trifling Charge against my Client, that he has *commanded his Pupil*, to break through Faith and Treaties, and surprize his Neighbours, tho' it be very true, there is *Nothing at all in it.* I behold with Shame the Ignorance of Mankind as to *what passes daily amongst us.* Do we not all know that Oaths and Obligations, when they are so saucy as to fetter the *Catholick Pleasure or Profit* of the Clergy, are ever broken through by *the whole Body*, with great *Fortitude and Unanimity*? Nor is there any Malignity in this convenient Piece of Wickedness; for the most damnable Sin ceases to be so, *as soon as the Priest has unchristen'd it*, and sucked out its Venom with a *Salvo*: When he has done this, as a godly Casuist finely observes, *Licet ante peccaverint, jam non peccant*: That is, *The most gross Sinners are now innocent, being undamned by the Priest.*

This ought to be meant of the Laity; for as to the Clergy, who are the *avowed Porters of Heaven*, and *Comptrollers* of its Power and Keys, and *Treasurers* of its Wrath and Mercies, I cannot conceive they should be at any Time in an unsanctified State, *let them do what they will.* To us indeed, who being Laymen, and only the *Beasts of the People*, see no further than the *Externals of Things*, a Parson may appear a *very sad Fellow*, and tainted with that which, *in one of*
ano-

another Cloth, might seem great Lewdness. But alas! they have an indelible Character which consecrates all their Actions, and is the spiritual Salt that keeps the Corruptions of the Clergy from stinking.

It may perhaps be not unbecoming my present Design, to enquire a little in what Nook or Quarter of the Priest this *indelible Character*, convey'd by Ordination, lurks; and I think it is evident it cannot lodge in the Cassock or Habit, since the same has been often worn by *Lay-Girls*, who being only Companions to the *holy Priests in their Labours and Exercises*, could not pretend to take Orders, or be ever *instituted and inducted*.

Nor can this *essential and unalterable Spot* reside in the Carcass of the Priest. For when a *Levite* has been *maliciously tossed off a Beam*, and *expir'd for want of footing*, or died a *natural Death of Debauchery*, or in any other manner *worthy of himself*, it has never been known that the said Carcass *forgave Sins*, or executed any *other Branch* of the *Ecclesiastical Office*. For it is remarkable, that, *when a Parson is dead*, he lyes as quiet and peaceable as *another Body*, which is a Confutation of a Point generally believ'd, namely, That a Priest is *never a good Neighbour*.

I would not have it alledged that the above-named *Stain of Priesthood*, sticks, like Bird-Lime, to the Soul of the Doctor, when the same has given his Body the Slip, or that he keeps *his Orders when he has lost his Organs*. Profane Wits will make a Jest of a *Ghost in Orders*, and, looking upwards, be surpriz'd to find a *Priest in a Place where no one would expect him*. But let such a Scoffer be answerable for his own Mirth, I am sure I have a *very good Meaning*.

How-

However, tho' this *indelible Character* must for ever remain a *profound Mystery* to me, *who am but an uncircumcis'd Lay-man*, and tho' I am in *Duty bound* to know what I cannot understand; I have still something further to say in Defence of my favourite *Cardinal*, his leaping over Oaths, which, as I have already prov'd, cannot tye down a *Church-Man*.

Arch Bishop *Laud*, besides his taking and tendering Oaths with an &c. which *some weak fanatical Ministers* would not swallow, and were therefore, like silly Fellows, unworthy of *their Cloth and Order*, undone because they would not be forsworn; I say, besides this *Essay* of his Perjury for the Good of himself and the Church, *He and the King* obliged the Clergy of *Scotland* to swear to a *Canonical Conformity* to a Liturgy, a Year before it was made. And I have read of a *Monarch, a Glorious Church-Man*, for whom, once a Year, many godly Revilings and Falsehoods are utter'd, and many Handkerchiefs wet, who, besides many other Instances of his Sincerity and Devotion, swore to the *Espousals* of one Lady, while he was engag'd by *Heart and Hand* to another whom he afterwards married.

What I would from hence infer in Favour of my Client, is, that if a *Popish Prince* and a *Popish Priest* have as good a Right to be forsworn as an *English Catholick Prince*, and an *English Catholick Priest*, the *Cardinal* and his *Pupil* stand justified.

You must own, Reader, a *Monopoly* of Perjury is not publick Spirited — I do not indeed envy any of our own Clergy *their full Share*, who may have been *trading that way*; but to engross the *whole Commodity* would be *unfair Trafficking*.

B

But

But to go on with my Apology, — *Kings are accountable to none but God, and the Priests to none but themselves.* As this Principle is exactly agreeable to the Pretensions and Practices of the *Church* in all Ages, I would be glad to see that daring Infidel who calls it in Question. The *Lay-World* may make Oaths, and take them, but so long as their Force depends upon the Pleasure and Explications of the Clergy, they will be but of small Service to Mankind. I will vouch for the Priests, that they always scorn'd to be barr'd by the trifling Regards of Conscience and Swearing, from the *more catholick Pursuits of their Pleasure and Power*; and History, both antient and modern, will vouch for me. I will give Instances.

When the Prince is hard hearted enough to humour the Church-Men, by oppressing and plundering the Laity, and politick enough to divide the Spoils with *them*, then it is Damnation to resist him, because he has a Divine Right to be Mischievous to all Men but themselves: But if his Majesty is so ill advis'd, as to provoke their Rage by his Benevolence to Mankind; or, if by a schismatical Adherence to Truth and Liberty, he frustrate their Hopes of making him a *good Church-Man*, the Church grows presently in imminent Danger from Virtue and Moderation, who are *notorious Dissenters from Orthodoxy*, then it is little better than Damnation not to resist him, and *Woes are denounced against the fearful Heart and the weak Hand.*

As to his present Majesty, there are those of the Clergy, who have *forsworn* to be true and faithful to him, over and over, and yet do not so much as pretend they mean any such Matter. They say they must swear or starve, which

which is a Confession that they would rather be damned than fast. What a Tribe of Simpletons were the Martyrs in all Ages ! their *heterodox Notions* made them erroneously prefer their Souls to their Bellies, and even to their Lives — And yet they had a stronger Plea for conforming to Idolatry and Perjury, as Death and Tortures are somewhat more frightful than bare Deprivation — But now a-days, by *universal Consent*, Tithes bear a higher Price than Conscience in any Market in England.

In *Edward* the Sixth's Time, the Clergy, to shew themselves true Conformists, forsook their Harlots and the Mass, and were, to appearance, reconcil'd to *one Woman*, and the New Testament. In *Queen Mary's* Reign they abandon'd the Gospel and their Wives, and re-became *Orthodox Catholics*, and to prove it, grew godly Burners of all that had either a Conscience or a Bible. Upon *Queen Elizabeth's* Accession to the Throne, they once more, like *conformable Friends to themselves*, forswore and complied, and afterwards plotted and rebell'd. But her Reign proved long and glorious. And indeed some, who have not that Reverence for the Gown, which they ought to have, are of Opinion, that it is a certain Symptom of happy Times, when the Priests run mad and cabal ; for, say they, while the People are suffer'd to enjoy their own, the Clergy can have no Plunder ; whereas, in a general Oppression, the Prince and Priests generally divide Stakes — They add, That Wolves and Ravens never fare *best* but where there are most Carcasses. But these Things ought not to be spoken, and,

I wonder how any Man in his Senses dare say such disrespectful Things of the *Officers of*

God Almighty's Revenue, who also are a Board of Commissioners for managing his Power, or rather their own Power, by *his Ministration*.

In the Business of Excommunication, for Instance, do we not see their Maker is *made* little better than their Executioner? He is *oblig'd* not only to ratify their Sentence, but to deliver the Person excommunicate into the safe Custody of Satan, their Goaler in *Comitatu Hell*. The Prisoner the while, not finding himself a bit restrain'd by his *crediting* Landlord, *the Devil*, goes to the Court, and for a little Money is absolved, be his Crime what it will, and this Sentence also *must* be ratified in Heaven, and the former unratified; and the great God, as if he were the Constable of the Court, *must* take the Prisoner out of a Goal where he never was, and from the Custody of a Goaler, whom he never saw, and re-instate him in a Church which perhaps he never own'd. Thus is the Creator of all Things, and the Giver of all Good, made the Instrument of their Anger and Avarice, and a Property to bring them Reverence and Money.

These Things are not at all aggravated here, and yet the bare mention of them may seem to expose them; but I mean no more by it than to shew the *wonderful and inconceivable Power of the Priesthood*, who are as *implicitly obey'd in Heaven*, as they ought to be on Earth, and have the upper and infernal World as much in their Gift, as he has, who is the Maker of both; nay much more, for, as a Reverend Doctor of our Church has it, *he has given them his Commission to dispose of them, and he cannot contradict himself*. They will not allow the King of Kings the *common Prerogative* of pardoning a poor Felon, once in a Sessions, without *their* consent, and then he *must* not be pu-

punished. How great and awful must these Men be, who are thus *absolute over the Absolute, and Kings of the King of Kings!* This may perhaps seem to represent them as no Friends to Monarchy, but this cannot be imagin'd, since they themselves are the Monarchs of God and Men.

After all this Omnipotence which I have proved to be in the Clergy, where is the need of believing in any *other* God, or of living as if there was one? No, no, if you would be *absolved and saved, believe in the Priest, and live in the fear of the Cassock.* What can be more handy than our having a Forgiver, and a Saviour in every Parish, besides *Deputy-Pardonners, and Journey-men-Saviours?*

There is indeed an antient Treatise named *Scripture*, which, if we give any Credit to it, would be apt to stagger this our Faith in the Clergy. It was of great Repute at the Reformation by a few Doctors, who, not knowing their own Power, basely sacrific'd the Interest of the Surplice to that of Christianity. But their Successors, wiser than these old Fellows, and better *Church-Men*, finding that the said Book was pragmatICAL, and would be opposing the Policy and Proceedings of their Society, translated all the Reverence, which was formerly paid to that venerable old Book, to a Book of Canons, compos'd on purpose, as a *Rival* to bring the other under disgrace, insomuch that it is now for the most part condemned to the mean Office of teaching Children to read. A certain *modern Bishop* has indeed done his *malicious part* to restore it to its *pristine* Regard and Dignity, but as he is *zealously* oppos'd by all the *truly Orthodox*, it is hop'd by many he will not succeed.

Com-

Commend me to the *German Monk* whom I have seen mentioned somewhere, I think, by *Monfieur Le Clerc*. This *genuine Priest*, faithful to the Interest of his Order, told his Penitents, in the godliness of his Zeal, *That there was a certain Book writ in Greek, call'd the New Testament, which was full of Heresies; and another certain Book, writ in Hebrew, called the Old Testament, which, if they believed it, would make them all Jews.*

I would recommend the Example of this Monk to our *own Monks*, but they have saved me the trouble.

There is an Outcry in the Mouths of too many of the Laity against the Clergy, which I think is very unreasonable; they accuse them of an implacable Enmity to Knowledge and Illumination; which is very true and yet very just. How often must these perverse Men be told, That *Learning and Eyes* in the Laity are the greatest Causes of the Contempt of the Clergy? Why should we be inquiring into Points which ought only to be believed thoroughly, but never understood nor conceived? It ought to suffice us to know that the Priests know all Things. This might at first have prevented Dissenters, and ought now to reclaim them. If we did but humbly and lazily follow our Guides, it would save us much trouble, and yet put them to none.

Besides, this Charge is too general; for they are always willing we should read and understand *those few Texts* that speak civilly of the Priesthood, and wish, no doubt, there were more of them. Nay, now and then they are so courteous as to split a Verse in the Bible with us, and, keeping one half to themselves, give us generously the other. For Example, *Be wise*

as

as Serpents, and innocent as Doves, is a Text they seem very ready to divide with us. The Harmlessness of the Pidgeon is at our Service, but we must not pretend to rob them of the *Serpent*.

The cunningest Serpent that ever was, I mean the Devil in *Milton*, compass'd the Earth by Night, and could not endure the *enlightned Side* of the Globe.

*The Space of seven continued Nights he rode
In Darknes—*

How agreeable the Policy of the *Arch-Fiend* is to the *other Gentlemen in Black*, I need not explain.—Without Doubt the *Wisdom and good Parts*, even of the Devil, are imitable. Who can blame them for hiding Deformities and cloven Feet? Should Knowledge and the Scriptures be let loose against the Clergy, what dreadful Havock would they make! These *merciless Informers* would make their Reputation to be only *Daub and Varnish*; and their Wealth, only *Booty and Plunder*: For what would not two such *bold Libertines* swear? Can we blame Men for warding against their mortal Foes.

For the Safety therefore of the Parsons, in their Fortunes and Characters, I will consult my *intimate Friends, the Two Houses*, about stopping the Mouth of the Bible, and the Bishop of *Bangor*. This, I hope, my *Friends* will comply with, for I know they love to *do popular Things*, and will be proud to please the *Convocation*.

I have been long thinking of a Project to reconcile Religion and the Church to each other: They were *originally intimate Friends*, but at present they live at *mortal Odds*. I

I would not say one Word, upon any Consideration, to perswade the Clergy to give Christianity the upper Hand of their Interest, for I love them too well to affront them : neither would I have them affright themselves with my *reconciling Design* above-mention'd, for I have given it over as *utterly impracticable* : But as I am their Friend and Apologist, I beg leave to recommend to them the Removal of a few unpopular Qualities and Practices, of which they are fond. And

First, I would advise them to conceal that *unprofitable Propensity* which is in them, to burn or strangle Dissenters. Persecution is certainly a laudable Calling, *when any Thing is to be got by it* ; and in such a Case, I am not for robbing the Clergy of *their Dues*, but at present there is neither Gain nor Credit in it : And therefore, I beseech them, as they love themselves, which is the strongest Motive my Invention can dictate, to banish this *Pennyles-Spirit* : The Malignity of the Times has deprived them of the Power of doing *Catholick Mischief and Murder for the Welfare of the Church*.

In order to perswade them effectually to close with this my Advice, I pray the Clergy not to judge of other Mens Consciences by their own. It would be really whimsical, in a few Men, *who are void of Hearing*, to set up for *adjusting or restraining the Laws of Harmony*. The Pleasure of Procreation is Greek and Hebrew to an Eunuch; and indeed to a Creature that is gelt, *Liberty of Cod-piece must have a very odd Sound*.

Another Point which seems wrong in them, is their stiling themselves the *Ambassadors of a great Potentate*, who, I am afraid, *will not own them*. We all know *their Instructions*, as mystical

as they would keep them, and I fear me, were they examin'd by them, like many other Statesmen, they would be found too great to be good. Should the late Earl of Mar, who hath given some shrewd Suspicions of his being for the Pretender, take it in his Head to call himself King George's Ambassador, would not his Practices, in some small Measure, bring in Question his Professions? The Application is easie; it is only supposing the Devil a Pretender to the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is, in a certain Diocess of this Nation, a Living, worth about Six Hundred Pounds a Year. This, and two or three more Preferments, maintain the Doctor in becoming Ease and Corpulency. He keeps a Chariot in Town, and a Journey-Man in the Country; and his Curate and his Coach-Horses are his equal Drudges, saving that the four Legg'd Cattle are better fed, and have sleeker Cassocks than his Spiritual Dray-Horse. The Doctor goes down once a Year to shear his Flock, and fill his Pockets, or, in other Words, to receive the Wages of his Embassy; and then, sometimes in an Afternoon, if his Belly do not happen to be too full, he vouchsafes to mount the Pulpit, and to instruct his People in the Greatness of his Character and his Dulness. This composes the whole Parish to Rest; but the Doctor one Day denouncing himself the Lord's Ambassador with greater Fire and Loudness than could have been reasonably expected from him, it rouz'd a Clown of the Congregation, who wak'd his next Neighbour, with—
Do'st bear, Tom, do'st bear? Ay, says Tom, yawning, what does he say? Say, answered t'other, he says a plaguy Lye to be sure; he says as how he is the Lord's Humbassador; But I do think he is

more rather *the Lord's Receiver-General*, for he never comes but to take Money.

Six Hundred Pounds a Year is, *modestly speaking*, a competent Fee for lulling the largest Congregation in *England* asleep once in a Twelve Month.—Such Tithes are the *Price of Napping*, and such mighty Odds there are between a *Curtain-Lecture* and a *Cushion-Lecture*.

The next Piece of Counsel I would give *my Friends in Black*, is, that when they are caught in a small Crime, or so, they would not always be throwing the Blame upon a Couple of civil Persons and good Neighbours, called *Flesh and Blood*; it is not satisfactory. A Bear when he is hungry, may eat up a good Christian, and give as *strong* a Reason for it.—No, let them Sin as they Preach, and scorn to tell us *why* or *wherefore*.

Their Ambition, of being such *near Kinsmen* to the *Apostles*, has likewise done them a Diskindness. A Priest may be a boon Companion, and an *admirable Church-man*, and yet not be a Bit like *his Cousin St. Paul*. It is therefore for the Honour of the Clergy, that I would have them drop their Alliance with the Saints: People will be making *shameful Comparisons*, in which the Gown, I doubt, will suffer; for know all Men, *by these Presents*, that Railing at the Government, and Undermining it, and the Contempt of Temperance, and Oaths, with other Modes that are now Orthodox, were not *Apostolical Vertues* in former Days: And whereas Humility, Meekness, Patience, brotherly Love and Charity, are, at this Day, every Mother's Son of them, *Dissenters and Schismatics*, the same were in some small Repute many Hundred Years ago. But what is that to our *present Apostles*? I

I often amuse my self with considering the Greatness and Multiplicity of the Characters belonging to the *Orthodox* Clergy. The meanest Reader of them is a Kinsman to the Apostles, and our Saviour's Lieutenant, and Door-Keeper of Heaven and Hell, and the Creator of Christians, and the Forgiver of Sins, and a Trumpeter, and a Watchman, and a Journey-man, and— (I am out of Breath) an Ambassador.

But as great Men as they are, it is hard, methinks, that an honest Lay-Man, when he dies, cannot step up *Stairs*, without a Ticket from an Ambassador, who is perhaps a Bed, or out of Humour, or taking his Bottle or *his Girl*, and the like.

My Friends, the Ambassadors have another Custom too, which favours not so much of the *Serpent as it ought to do*. A Man cannot grow eminent for his Knowledge and Writings, but forthwith the Ambassadors grow fearful of him, and cry *Atheist* at him. This I would pray them to forbear. I own I have my own Ends in giving them this wholesome Admonition; for, to tell it to my *dear Friend, the World*, as a Secret, which I desire may go no further, I begin my self to be *more* than apprehensive of the Charge of *Atheism* against me.

The Church-Men have, moreover, found it for their Interest, Time out Mind, that most of their Foes should drink a Bumper to *Beelzebub* next their Heart every Morning. Now, I declare I am not at all acquainted with the Devil, and I desire the Ambassadors, if he should tell them the contrary, not to credit him; for, what-ever they may think of it, he's a sad lying Fellow.

Mr. Lock, I grant, gave them sufficient Cause to abuse him, by his *speaking well of human Understanding, and explaining the Scriptures*. But for my self, I vow and protest, *upon the Word of an Author*, I never yet did the Clergy the *least ill Office*, by teaching Mankind either Reason or Religion: I confess, I love them both well enough to merit the *Character of an Infidel*, but I keep my Affection to Piety and Truth, to my self, for fear of provoking the *Ambassadors*; *they being engaged in another Interest*.

I, who am their Apologist, must own, it is not without Reason they look askint upon Humanity, and useful Knowledge, and Moderation, and the like *Lay-Vertues*. A Man that *wants Legs*, would certainly think himself insulted and reproached, should a pragmatrical Fellow take it in his Head to *be dancing and cutting Capers before him*. Folks that *have no Teeth*, do not love *Crust*.

But notwithstanding all these friendly Concessions of mine in Favour of the *Ambassadors*, I must still pray them, for the future, to keep *their Atheism* to themselves, tho' *they may have a great deal of it to spare*. For, while there are yet a few left, who make bold to believe there is *another God besides the Clergy*, an Adherence to Scripture and common Sense will not fail to be approved by *many*, and would be by *more*, were it thought consistent with the *Dignity and Designs* of the *Ambassadors*, to *permit* the common People to return to their Senses.

But this, alas, is not to be expected, so long as Judgment and Understanding are so apparently opposite *to the Rights of the Church*.

The *Roman Clergy* are justified in keeping the Laity in Subjection and Ignorance, by a bold

bold Pretence to Infallibility: Whereas our Priests, equally bold, but less reasonable, would make us Slaves and Blockheads, and yet *cannot give us a Reason for it*. It is confessed they have a certain hard Word, one *Orthodox*, which is their Friend at a pinch, and serves them on all Occasions, for a ready Answer to every Objection. But this same *Orthodox*, tho' it *fully convinces many good Church-Men*, yet *hath lost its original meaning*, and, for many Ages, signified either every Thing, or nothing. Indeed, when the Church hath her Hands *unbound*, *Orthodox* is a Word of high Importance, and constantly signifies the Pillory and Whipping-Post, and the Church that has these *reforming Engines* of its Side, is, *of course*, the *most Apostolical*.

This *Orthodox* has likewise been *compelled to mean several other Meanings*, upon several Occasions. Sometimes it is an Altar, and sometimes a Book of Canons; sometimes a Convocation, and sometimes a Mob; it is this Minute a Bishop *in his Throne*, and the next, a Tithe-Pig. Now and then it is Slavery and unlimited Loyalty, and presently it is Sedition and Rebellion, *without reserve*. It is a Tyrant when a Master, and an Incendiary when a Servant, and either plotting Mischiefs, or acting it. When it is a Doctor, it argues by strong Hand, and, as ill as it likes the Bible, it would keep it all to it self. When it is in Adversity, it snatches up the first Remedy that comes to its Hand, lawful or unlawful; but to others in the same Circumstances it recommends *Prayers and Tears*, especially when they are to no purpose: If you give it all it asks, it will perhaps *seem* contented; but if you shew its hated Foe, *Moderation*, the least Countenance, it will spit in your Face, and call you Son of a Whore:

Whore: For, whatever Disguise it appears in, it is very apt to be in a Passion, and call Names; nay, if its Hands are not tied, it will bite and scratch, and kick, and fling, and bounce and bellow, and knock down all that come near it, unless they swear a bloody Oath, *they are for the Church.*

But as useful as this *Orthodox* is to the Clergy, it will never justify them, in the Opinion of impartial Judges, for marking the best and most elevated Spirits with the Brand of Atheism. Virtue, Learning, and Humanity, will find Friends in spite of Orthodoxy, and many of the Laity will live in the Fear of God, let the Clergy take it ever so ill; and others will be Lovers of Truth and Mankind, at the hazard of being hated by the Church.

I must now have some Talk with my Friends, the Ambassadors, upon another Point, and that is their Claim of Divine Right to every Thing which they have a mind to call *theirs.*

It is certain the Monks acquired most of their Possessions by such Means and Arts as would have been scandalous and diabolical, had they been practis'd by *Lay-Men.* But *Clerks only* have the sacred Privilege of tricking and playing the Devil for the Prosperity of the Church. Now these Possessions of ~~the~~ Monks, tho' forfeited to the Crown by the Law, for having been fraudulently got, and unjustly kept, to maintain Laziness and Debauchery, are to this Hour claimed by our *present Monks*, as the undoubted Successors of the *other* bald Vermin, *in Purity of Doctrine and of Manners.* Thus aiming in every Point to resemble these their pious Predecessors, they would willingly hold their Lands by *Roguary and Divine Right.*

The

The antient Monks were much more generous and reasonable than the *present Set* ; for they gave their Bubbles an *Equivalent* for their Wealth — They would at any time Jockey away a small Tenement in *Abraham's Bosom* for a rich Manor in *England* ; whereas our *modern Monks*, notwithstanding their avowed Authority over their Maker, and his Dominions *above*, are so far from *dealing* like Chapmen, that, in Exchange for our Possessions, they do not so much as offer us a little *Bargain* in Paradise. If the *Propriety* of *that Ground* be theirs, they might at least tender a *future Cottage* for a *present Palace*, and the rather, because by Experience we know, that when we are at their Mercy, they allow us, *in this Life*, little else but Dungeons, Whips and Chains, and the like *Inducements* to reverence the Priesthood, who, for the *Good* of our Souls, use our Bodies *bloody ill*. And it cannot be denied, when the *Ambassadors* are let loose, they act as if they were, in Truth, *the Scourges* of God, by *Divine Right*.

Now, I their Apologist, do earnestly persuade the Ambassadors to drop this Claim. All the Laicks who read the Bible know there is nothing of it in that Book, and they do not see that the Clergy live in so good an Understanding and Conformity with their Maker, as to merit from him a Grant of all the Lands in *England* by *Word of Mouth*.

What they have by *human Right* let them keep, and make much of it ; nay, (to please them) let them wrangle and go to Law about it as much and as often as they will — But this is a Hint they do not want. A Parson's Bull and his Grey Pad feed on Tithes-Hay and Corn, which is the Provender of these Brutes by *Divine*
vine

vine Right, and yet I never observed they grew fatter upon this *divine Food* than a *Lay-Bull* and a *Lay-Stone-Horse*, or were less addicted to Carnality and Lewdness.

I shall say nothing here of the *Divine Right* which doubtless the Ambassadors have to *Pluralities and Non-Residence*: Only by the by, suppose the Earl of *Stairs* should desire his Majesty to make him Ambassador to half a dozen Courts beside that of *France*, and undertake to execute all these Employments by his *Footmen*, I fancy his Excellency would be roundly told, That Discharging an Ambassy by a *Curate* is such a Solœcism in Politicks as a *Lay-Minister* must not be guilty of.

I now proceed to another *Catholick Topick*, which is run into *prodigious Luxuriancy* and Irregularity; I mean the good *Art of Lying* for the Church. I do not intend to debar the *Ambassadors* from their most righteous and most antient Practice of martyring their Conscience to their Cassock, and venturing their precious Souls against the dangerous and fanatical Encroachments of their old Foe, *Truth*, which was never a Friend to the *Trade* of the Tippet. It is to be wished, however, that their laudable Zeal for this venerable *Usage* were a little limited; and therefore that it may not grow useless by being altogether boundless, *as it is at this Day*, I, the *Apologist* for the Church, prompted by pure Affection, will make bold to lay down *two Rules* to be observed by the *Ambassadors*, who are *Liars* for the good of it, as well as Sir *H. Wootton* was for the good of the State.

And First, I implore them, as they love their precious *Livings*, not to *fib* out of the Bible. I know it is the hardest Thing in the World to
break

break Men of a *long and strong* Habit, particularly when they *much* delight in it; but I pray them to consider that the Bible is the most awkward Creature under the Sun at fathering a Lie. You may easily know when *he* is quoted for a Falsehood, for if you ask him, he will deal uprightly with you, and tell you the naked Truth. It was a malicious Thing of our Ancestors, and a great Blow upon the *Ambassadors*, to teach *this Foreigner* our Language; for ever since he has been *naturaliz'd* and taught *English*, he blabs out every Thing he knows.

Good Doctors, take Warning from the *wretched* Fate of a *Brother Doctor*, who in a furious Fit of Zeal to destroy his Country, and *save* the Church, took a Passage or two out of the Bible, that were not in it. Upon this some *unleavened Lay-Men*, who had a singular Affection for the Scripture, but were bitter Enemies to the Church, went and consulted their *old Friend* the Bible, who told them frankly, and like a Neighbour, that this *Saviour* of the Church had *belied him*; and, after spending some Moments in Admiration of the Doctor's *want of Memory*, added, That *the Doctor and he* had never been, in the least, *acquainted in all their Lives*.

A *fore Stroke* this upon our *Ambassador*, but it did not rest here. These hard hearted Lay-Men, preferring the Reputation of an *obsolete Treatise* to that of a *modish Ambassador*, hung up the Story at *Westminster-Hall*, and then publish'd it to all the World. Which dreadful Usage did so provoke the *meek Ambassador*, that from that Hour to this he could never endure Law, or Gospel, or Truth, or good Manners; but, being now both distracted and harden'd to a degree, he swears and rails, and lies more or less

every Day in the Week, but *most terribly on Sundays.*

Behold the Damage which accrues to the Church from the aptness of the Bible to tell Tales!

This Boldness in us *Lay-Animals*, or, as a great *Church-Man* loves to call us, *The Beasts of the People*, to meddle with Knowledge, and study the *Word of God*, is undoubtedly a shameful Insult upon the *Ambassadors*, and a manifest Impropriation of their Rights and Profits. But there is no Help for it, the Laity will, *against all Reason*, be exercising their *Reason*, and judging in Things which, tho' plain and necessary, ought to remain a profound *Mystery*. All this is the more intollerable, for that both the Prophets and Apostles give a very harsh and unkind Character of our present *Orthodox Clergy*. It is well for these *Calumniators* and *Low-Church-Men*, that they are dead.

Having now shewed the *Ambassadors* that it is by no Means safe, even when the Church is in the greatest Danger, to lie for its Preservation out of the *Holy Scriptures*, which are ever *backward* to own and vindicate the Cause of the *Cassock*; I proceed to give them a Rule to lie by, when they fetch their Falshoods out of their own Heads — And it is only this, *to Lie with probability*. How many a glorious *Catholick Forgery* has been murder'd by making it too *Catholick*, that is, too *Monstrous*? What Pity it is there should be any Excess in Piety and good Works!

In the Time of the late Rebellion I din'd by Accident at a Gentleman's House in the *West*, who made no secret of his being a Jacobite, or, as he explain'd it, a *true Church-Man*. The *Parson*, I found, was gone to the next Village to
cater

cater for News, and, being impatiently expected by the 'Squire, arrived just as we were sitting down to Dinner. *Well, Doctor, says his Worship, What is the Word? Mar, Mar, Sir,* replied the Doctor, *What should it be?* Here all the Family chuckled, perceiving the *good Man* had got a Packet that pleas'd him. However, before he broach'd his *best News*, he let us know that King George (to whom he gave *another Name*) had got a Guard about him, consisting of *Five Thousand Turks, and Ten Thousand Presbyterian Parsons*. These ill Tidings made Madam sigh for the Church, and therefore the Doctor hasten'd to tell her *better*. Come, Madam, says he, *hold up, Day dawns in the North, the brave Mar has Two Hundred Thousand Highlanders well arm'd and principl'd, to serve your Ladyship and the Church; and Three Hundred and Fourscore great French Ships of War, were this Morning seen making towards Portsmouth.* The Lady thank'd God with an Ejaculation, and his Ambassador with a Glas of Sherry. He then proceeded to assure us, *That the Duke of Argyle's Army had deserted to a Man, and that his Grace himself was fled in a poor fishing Boat to Greenland, or somewhere, far away; that his Majesty had stole away from St. James's, and was not to be found high nor low; and that the Duke of Marlborough bit his Thumbs, and look'd as pale as Asbes.* This great News procured the Ambassador t'other Glas of Sherry, and Madam clapped t'other Custard upon his Plate. He then assur'd us, of his own Knowledge, that the Duke of Berwick had on some Occasion or other given the Earl of Stairs a terrible Box on the Ear, and order'd him to leave the Kingdom in three Hours, on pain of being put in the Stocks. *A brave a Man this Duke of Berwick, says*

a Booby at the Parson's Elbow, the 'Squire's eldest Son. *Ay*, says the Parson, and,

*Here is to Berwick the bold,
And may his Grace live to grow old.*

He went on in this Wantonness of Fancy, and lied and rhim'd beyond all Bounds. The 'Squire squeez'd him by the Hand, and put his Health round, and I saw nothing but Mirth and Gaiety. For my self, I laugh'd with the rest, and own'd the *Ambassador's* News to be *wonderful strange*. He was afterwards very Arch upon a brace of *Turks*, and a Garden of Turnips that he had planted in his Majesty's Bed Chamber. But as he was going on in his News and Calumny, and *just shipping off the Royal Family*, for whom he had provided a Lodging somewhere in *Holland*, an honest Gentleman came in with the printed Account of both the *Battle of Preston*, and that of *Dumblain*; for, living far from a Post-Town, he had his Letters but once a Week. The *Ambassador* was instantly taken with an occasion to make Water, and left both his News and his Custard unfinished. But I told the Gentleman the Wonders the Doctor had told *us*, and he shew'd us the monstrous impossibility of them; which had so good an Effect, that tho' he continues his Trade to this Day, and Lies as *fer-*
vently as ever, especially from his *wooden Sanctu-*
ary, yet the perverse People *uncharitably* refuse to be any longer his Rogues and Zealots; where-
as before this his unhappy Detection, he could set them a Railing and Swearing, and Mobbing, at his *Christian Pleasure*. It is true, *many of the good Women* are still his Believers and Conformists; but this is ascrib'd to a *Cause not quite so spiritual*.

Take

Take Warning, O Reverend Ambassadors, from the forlorn Miscarriage of this your *blundering Brother*, who, transported with *Orthodox Zeal*, carried a *well-meaning Lye* beyond the Bounds of Likelihood, and has *thereby* utterly disabled himself from serving the *Church* and *his Order*, as long as he lives — Better, oh better he had been a Bed that inauspicious Day, tho' with *his Hand-maid*, as usual.

Not so the artful and eloquent *Father Francis*, who holds forth a Lye, and weeps over a Lye, with a praise-worthy Cunning and Dexterity. He dresses up the pretty Puppit so amiably, all at the Cost and Charges of *his own Fancy*, and laments over it so movingly, that there is not a dry Eye, nor a dry Handkerchief, in the whole Congregation. The Tears and Rage of his Hearers are equally in his Power; the whole Order would no doubt envy him, were he not, tho' greatly lewd, an *excellent Church-Man*.

He was once raising the Pity of his Hearers, for a *hopeful, unfortunate* young Gentleman, who, tho' born to *three great Estates*, was so ill us'd, and *persecuted*, that he had not a *Hovel* to put his *Catholick Head* in. In short, he describ'd the poor Lad's Circumstances so artfully, and lamented him so pathetically, that I thrust my Hand into my Pocket, and, had *the Pretender* been within three Pews of me, I should infallibly have reached him half a Crown; a larger Charity than I give to *every poor Body*. I perceived the same Sympathy and Commiseration in the Looks of the whole Church.

On every 30th of *January*, how many *Butchers* does he send Home, calling for their *Cleavers*, to hew in Peices all the *Presbyterian Demons*,

mons, that had a Hand in the *Slaughter* of the *Martyr* ! For it is a standing Maxim and *Resolve* amongst the *Ambassadors*, That all the *Dissenters*, who ever lived, or shall live, to the end of the *World*, *must be the very individual Men that murdered King Charles the First, with their own Hands.* Another Time he gave us a frightful Image and Description of *Oliver Cromwell's Time* ; but he threw so many *Modern Incidents* into the Character, that the whole Congregation *mistook* him to mean the *present Reign*, and I, like a Booby, amongst the rest, was of the same Opinion ; and he put me so out of Humour with the Court and the Ministry, that I snatched up my Hat and Cane, and went directly to *expostulate* with a *Secretary of State*, upon the *dreadful Doings and Mismanagements* which *Friar Francis* had pointed at : I likewise intended to admonish the *Courtiers* to be *ruled by the Clergy*, if they expected to prosper. But when I came to *St. James's*, I found that Things had quite another Face there, than when they came out of the Mouth of *Friar Francis*. So I kept my Business to my self, and sneak'd off, warn'd however to trust no more to the Representations of this *Reverend Father in Guile*.

But, I hope, for the sake of the *Ambassadors*, no Body else will take the same Pains to be untaught the *Apostolical Forgeries*, which their *Excellencies* may find it convenient to broach from Time to Time—. Such a rash Proceeding would utterly destroy the Credit of the *Cassock* throughout this Land. But my *honourable Friends* know themselves very safe in the *conformable Credulity* of their Hearers : And yet I must still praise that wary *Doctor most*, who lies *best*, that is, like *Friar Francis*, *most artfully*. He well knows,
that

that the pious Art of Falshood is the only Engine they have left to defend the Reputation of the Crape, and to wound that of their great Rival for Power, the GOVERNMENT. He therefore manages with Care and Art this last Shift.

I have already given a Reason sufficient, why Oaths ought not to Hamstring the Ambassadors, to which I will here add, in Defence of the innocent Sin of Perjury, that if their universal Custom and Practice in all Ages, be of any Force, as sometimes Custom alone creates Law, then here is an Apology in a few Words, for such Genuine Clergy-men as have forsworn to his present Majesty for the Preservation of their Cupboards and Tithes, of which the Holy Church hath made them Overseers. It is not, therefore, without valuable Considerations, that the conscientious Priests have reconcil'd themselves to this innocent Sin, and made Perjury the easiest Task under the Sun. Not but that the conformable, good Creatures can abstain from it (as much as they are used to it) when there is more got by NON-JURING.

I knew the Ambassador of a Parish near the Bath, who had for many Years sworn and pray'd with constant Conformity, and enjoy'd his Living and his October, without the least Tumult in his Conscience, till the beginning of the late Rebellion; but this same Conscience of his (being something of a Time-Server) no sooner heard that the Highlanders were risen, but it began to rise too, and gave the Doctor several Hints, which he thought were just and reasonable. In short, it drew up a Remonstrance to him, by which it appear'd, that if he did but handle the present Opportunity well, he might bid fair to get something, without losing any thing. The Doctor was

was ready to follow the Advice of so *rational* a Conscience, and so *pretended* to quit his Parish, because, as he told his People in a doleful Discourse at *parting*, he could not, *with any Conscience*, pray for a Prince who had no Right, and so forth. Thus the Doctor seem'd to risk a small Living for the good of his poor Soul, and a Deanery: And only seem'd, for, being as *cautious*, as he was *conscientious*, he had his Church supplied with a Deputy-Ambassador, vulgarly call'd a Curate. However, the Doctor enjoy'd the Honour and Character of a Confessor for a few Weeks, and then the Defeats of *Mar* and *Forster* gave him such *convincing Proofs of his Majesty's Right*, that his courteous Conscience, the best natured yielding Thing alive, made him and Perjury *cordial Friends* once more. He took the Oaths, and kept his Parish, and prays now for the Government *with the same Sincerity as ever*.

Before I have done, I must have a little Chat with my Friends, the *Ambassadors*, upon the Head of *Politicks*; and I cannot but conceive they are somewhat too fickle and changing in their *Friendship* and *Enmity* to *Princes* and *States*: and *Inconstancy* in *Schemes*, is an essential Error in *Statesmen*.

The *Ambassadors* were, for some Time, exceeding fond of the late *French King*, who indeed took *prevailing Methods* to please them. In the first Place he exerted the full *Prerogative of a Monarch* by *Divine Right*, upon his *Lay-Subjects*, and treated them as *Slaves*, born to *breath but for his Pleasure*. Secondly, He strove gloriously, by *Frauds* and *Violence*, to destroy the most powerful and most *obnoxious Nest of Republicans* in the World, dull *Dutch-men*, that will be for *Trade* and *Liberty of Conscience*, let our Clergy say what they

they will to the contrary—. Thirdly (O glorious Article!) He *exercised such wholesome Severities on Dissenters*, that every true Church-Man ought to worship him to all Eternity. And yet, after all this complicated Merit, they withdrew *their Protection* from him, as soon as he grew Friends with King William. But he quickly merited their Smiles; for he bravely broke his Faith, and fell a murdering the D—d Dutch again: And during the whole Course of the War, they continued to grieve for his Losses, and to curse the Duke of Marlborough for stopping the Course of *his most Christian Cruelties*. But still they grumbled at his Slowness in lending them a few Ships and Troops to do a certain Jobb which they had much at Heart, because it would have chang'd the ill-contriv'd Model of our Laws and Religion, into a Form more pleasing to them.

The Regent too was honour'd with their good Graces, while he was suspected of aiding the Rebellion for the Church; but, now it appears he has no Spight against their Country and Constitution, they have taken up a mortal one at him.

Sweden was once the only Object of their Affection and their Prayers, whilst its King was expected with a Fleet and Army to rescue the Church, by Fire, and Sword, and Popery, from the Danger of a Protestant Government. But Sweden failed them, and presently

The Czar of Muscovy got into their Favour, and it was strongly hop'd, that that meek Monarch would set Fire to the Nation, and help the Church; and, tho' he baulk'd them, the Ambassadors are still fond of him, he having, by his Humanity to his Son, and several others, shewn that he knows the use of wholesome Severities; besides, 'tis thought he has no Good-Will for England.

E

The

The *Turk* was at one Time a *very popular Church-Man*, for he was at War with the *Christians*, and therefore — great Things were expected from him by the *Ambassadors*, for the *Prosperity of the Church*: But *Prince Eugene*, who is not a good *Church-Man*, drove their *Mahometan Friend* back to his *Whore-House* again —

Even the *Emperor* himself, when it was reported he had given his *Sister* to the *Pretender*, was honour'd with the *Character of a Well-wisher to the Church of England*; but that *Lye* not proving true, his *Imperial Majesty* lost Ground amongst the *Ambassadors*, and is at present in such *Disgrace* with them, that nothing, but his going to *Mafs*, makes them keep Measures with him.

The *Dutch* were ever the *Objects of their Indignation*, and utter *Aversion*, but at this present Time, even these *Republicans*, and *No-Christians*, by their *Slowness in signing the Quadruple-Alliance*, have won the *Hearts of our Ambassadors*, and the *Hogan Mogans* have now the good Fortune to be deem'd *judicious and moderate Schismatics*; but I am in great Dread, that they will *very shortly* anger the *Church* again.

But *Parson Alberoni*, my *Client*, is, of all the *Potentates in Europe*, the *Pope himself* not excepted, their present *Favourite and Darling*, as I, tho' unworthy, expect soon to be, for penning this *unanswerable Encomium* upon Him and Them.

Their Love of this *Potent, High-Church-Man*, who, like another *Cardinal Laud*, leads his *Pupil* by the *Nose*, and the *Purse-Strings*, can proceed from nothing but their *Fondness for Works of Charity*, to which, it seems, my *Client* shews a strong *Inclination*, particularly, in an *Instance or two* that cannot but please the *Church*.

We

We all know there are several worthy *English Gentlemen*, the good *Friends* of our *Ambassadors*, and loyal *Sufferers* for the *Church*, who live like *Vagrants* in *Italy*, and are fed with *Crumbs* from the *Pope's Table*. Now the *loving Cardinal* has, in his *Royal Bounty*, invited these *pious Protestants* into his *Kingdom*, offering them a *Morsel*, and a *Bed*, tho' it is fear'd the present *Parliament* hath taken such *uncatholick Resolutions* as may put the *Cardinal's Majesty* out of humour, and tempt him to change his *Mind*.

Sir George Bing too is never to be forgiven by any *Man* who wishes well to the *Church* and *Uniformity*, for creating such a dangerous *Schism* in the *Cardinal's Fleet*, who were too *Orthodox Catholics* to digest the dreadful *Heresy* of *Protestant Powder and Ball*.

It was rude in Sir George to break the *Heads* of so many *civil Spaniards*, who were *Men* of peaceable *Behaviour*, and no-wise addicted to *Fighting*. It is true they afterwards behav'd themselves like *Hero's*, when they refought the *English* in the *Marquis de Beretti Landi's Paper*, where his Excellency has made them shew the true *Spanish Bravery*, by beating Sir George bravely, and running away from him bloodily. And it is plain to all the *World*, that they shewed, by a *bold Flight*, they scorn'd to die to please that *merciless Heretick*.

I could add many *Particulars* to illustrate the *Worth* of my *eminent Client*, *Parson Alberoni*, whose great *Capacity* to rule his *Master* is visible to *Mankind*. I could likewise insist that he has as good a *Right* as any other *Priest* or *Vicar* whatsoever, to act as becomes his *Order*, by nourishing *War* and *Desolation*.

But

But I will wave the Detail of these Points, tho' there is a *great deal* in them, having a *grand Thing* to urge in his Behalf, which renders him singularly Dear to all true Church-Men — Reader, a Word in your Ear ; Parson Alberoni intends, if King George would but let him, to *restore* — and the Church-Lands.

O Sanctum, festumq; diem! —

Having left this *important* Whisper upon the Reader's Memory, I shall say no more.

N. B. Not one of the *numerous* Answers which will be made to this *Apology*, will be worth reading. But, at the *earnest* Request of my Bookseller, I design to write and publish a *Reply to my self*, which I desire every Body to buy.

FINIS:

